

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
18 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 14 March 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) established by the Security Council in resolution 1542 (2004) and most recently extended by resolution 2070 (2012).

Following the usual consultations, I would like to inform you of my intention to appoint Lieutenant General Edson Leal Pujol (Brazil) as the new Force Commander of MINUSTAH. He will succeed Major General Fernando Rodrigues Goulart (Brazil), who will complete his assignment on 27 March 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Major General Goulart for his dedication and effective leadership.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN Ki-moon**



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
19 March 2013
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 19 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

We refer to the identical letters from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, issued as document S/2013/130, alleging that the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces has been violated by shellfire from the Syrian side.

The letters are a desperate attempt on the part of the Israeli Permanent Representative to distract international attention from Israel's role in destabilizing the area of disengagement by providing numerous forms of support to armed terrorist groups active in the area. Syria is surprised at this attempt to misrepresent an incident which the Syrian side addressed immediately, acting in coordination with United Nations forces and in accordance with its obligations under the Agreement on Disengagement. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) notified the Syrian side on 2 March 2013 that three artillery shells had landed to the north-west of United Nations Observation Post No. 58, some 2.25 kilometres east of Kafr Alma and hence some 2.5 kilometres inside occupied Syrian territory. The General Command of the Army and Armed Forces then ordered ground troops to cease firing on the armed terrorist groups, which have repeatedly attacked the area.

The head of protocol and information at UNDOF subsequently informed the Syrian side that UNDOF had evacuated United Nations Observation Post No. 58 as a result of the clashes. After the Syrian law enforcement forces had agreed to cease fire, the armed terrorist groups took control of the observation post. Four days later, they detained 21 members of the Philippines battalion of UNDOF. The Syrian side has exercised the utmost restraint and flexibility, cooperating fully with UNDOF to address the incident. It has done so in order to comply with its obligations under the Agreement and preserve the stability of the area. UNDOF is fully aware that the activity of armed terrorist groups in the area of disengagement hinders the Armed Forces in the exercise of their mandate and jeopardizes the safety and security of its personnel and of the Syrian civilian population that lives in the area.



The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the threat contained in the letter from the Israeli Permanent Representative is a vain attempt to obfuscate the fundamental issue, which is that the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan must be brought to an end, inasmuch as it is a standing violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and provisions of international law, and that Israel is unquestionably behind the instability of the area of disengagement. It is surely clear by now that Israel's support for armed terrorist groups in the area has serious repercussions. Most recently, it led to the attack on the Philippines battalion of UNDOF. The incident again highlights the responsibility of the Security Council to preserve peace and security in the area of disengagement by prevailing on the States backing the armed terrorist groups to shoulder their responsibilities by refraining from supporting the groups' activities on Syrian territory and, in particular, in the area of disengagement.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Bashar Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of
the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

**Security Council**

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19 March 2013
English
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Identical letters dated 19 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

At 0730 hours this morning, in a dangerous escalation of the crimes that the armed terrorist groups are committing in the north of Syria, those groups fired a rocket from the Kafr Da'il area towards Khan al-Asal in Aleppo governorate, some 5 km away. The missile fell in a civilian-populated area, some 300 metres from a Syrian Arab army position. Its impact was followed by a thick cloud of smoke, which left unconscious anyone who inhaled it. The explosion of the missile and the gases that were emitted have so far caused the death of 25 persons and the injury of more than 110 civilians and soldiers, who have all been taken to hospital in Aleppo.

In identical letters dated 8 December 2012 that the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, which were issued as document A/67/628-S/2012/917, Syria has already expressed its genuine concern that certain States that support terrorism and terrorists could provide the armed terrorist groups with chemical weapons, and then claim they had been used by the Syrian Government. It has also warned of the dangers of failing to take action to ensure that outlawed weapons do not fall into the hands of Al-Nusrah Front and other Al-Qaida-affiliated groups, particularly after those groups gained control of a private sector factory to the east of Aleppo that contains tons of toxic chlorine, and media reports that Al-Qaida elements have threatened to use against the Syrian Arab people chemical weapons that they are producing in a laboratory near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, with a view to claiming that it was the Syrian Government that used those weapons. The videos that were made available on the Internet at the time showed how toxic gases have been made, and tested on living creatures, using chemical materials that Al-Qaida has obtained from a Turkish company.

The Syrian Government has also previously warned of the risk that those terrorist groups could resort to using such weapons against the Syrian people, and is convinced that the international community's failure to take any steps to address developments in the situation of which it was warned or hold those who support the terrorist groups accountable, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in addition to the calls that have been made by certain European Union



and Arab League States to arm those terrorist groups, have encouraged those groups to carry out the vile crime that was committed this morning.

The Syrian Arab Republic, while reiterating the commitment that it has made on scores of occasions, through the diplomatic channel and in public, and which it has conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council, to the effect that it would never use any chemical weapons which it may have against its own people, will proceed with its constitutional obligation to pursue the terrorists and their supporters, out of concern for the security and safety of its people. Syria calls upon the international community to take serious and determined action to prevent those terrorist groups from continuing to commit their dangerous crimes against the Syrian people, by halting the financial, military, logistical, political and media support which is provided by the States that support the terrorist groups, in particular, Turkey, Qatar and certain Western States, without any thought for the consequences of that support for innocent Syrian civilians, whose blood is being spilled by those terrorist groups.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Bashar Ja'afari**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
